

main question of suffrage and equal rights. As the gentleman from Charles, (Mr. Stoddert,) had said, this matter was most proper to be put in the constitution. What did Thad Stevens and Sumner and Chandler care whether this Convention granted this right or not? Those men would prefer that it should not be done, as it would help to spike their artillery.

Mr. Ritchie submitted a proposition, which he hoped would meet with the concurrence of all, to refer the pending section, with all the amendments, to the next General Assembly.

The Chair said the motion was not in order.

The question being taken on the amendment of Mr. Tarr, it was disagreed to.

When Mr. Archer's name was called, he rose and said that he had been one of those who had opposed the insertion in the constitution of any provision in relation to this matter. A majority of the Convention had, however, been in favor of inserting the right of the negro to testify in the Bill of Rights. It was then he, acting in behalf of the minority, had submitted a proposition to insert the clause in the article on the legislative department. This had been agreed to by the majority, and it was a great concession to the minority. He, therefore, felt bound to abide by the decision of the majority, and should vote against all amendments.

Mr. Marbury's name being called, he said he was in favor of meeting the question right here, and of shirking no responsibility. This Convention should settle the matter, and not leave it to the Legislature or any one else. It had been debated to the fullest extent in the last Legislature, had finally passed the House, and would have passed the Senate but for want of time. He believed that the interests of the people and the exigencies of the times demanded that the negro should testify.

Mr. Motter offered an amendment that the section should be submitted as a distinct proposition to a separate vote of the people for their adoption or rejection, which was rejected by a vote of 41 yeas to 58 nays.

Mr. Wickes, in rendering his vote in the negative, said that he did so for the same reasons as those assigned by